



Elizabeth Hudson comes 'Full Circle'

♣ Through her work with *Our State* magazine for more than 20 years, Asheboro native Elizabeth Hudson has learned where to find the best barbecue and the state's most photographed waterfalls.

On the Outer Banks, she has walked in the same sand where pirates once trod, and she knows how much milk makes a perfect bowl of Southern snow cream.

Now, Hudson will come *Full Circle* — the title of her recently-published book of columns written for the magazine — as she returns to Randolph County for a Friends of the Library Sunset Signature Series event at 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 25, in downtown Asheboro's historic Sunset Theatre.

Hudson's appearance is free and the public is invited. Tickets can be reserved at tinyurl.com/ehfcss.

Ticket holders should be in the theatre by 7:15 p.m.; seats remaining after that time will be released to the general public.

Hudson's talk will focus on how we preserve our memories, and why it matters that we do. She will share "as much Asheboro stuff as I can," she says, "really kind of a walk down memory lane."

Hudson started answering telephones in the *Our State* circulation department in 1997 before moving to the editorial department. She held various editorial titles before becoming editor-in-chief in 2009.

Under Hudson's editorial leadership, *Our State's* paid subscription has grown more than 30 percent, from 130,000 subscribers in 2009 to more than 175,000 today. Each month, she works with the top writers and



Elizabeth Hudson

photographers in the country to produce a magazine that has garnered national attention.

In 2011 and 2012, *Our State* won Gold Eddies for best issue of a regional magazine in the country from *FOLIO*, the magazine industry's leading publication recognizing editorial excellence.

Hudson also has received numerous awards herself, including the 2014 Ethel N. Fortner Writer and Community Award celebrating contributions to the literary arts of North Carolina; the 2016 North Carolina Travel Industry Associations' Charles Kuralt Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions by individuals who have brought positive public attention to North Carolina; and the 2021 Book Award of Excellence from the North Carolina Society of Historians for *Silver Linings*, a book of columns.

In 2019, she was inducted into the North Caroliniana Society, an organization recognizing service to the state's historical, literary and cultural heritage.

She holds a B.A. in English from UNC-Greensboro, and in 2019, proudly accepted the Alumni Award from her alma mater, which honors a select number of graduates for exceptional achievement and significant contributions to their communities, professions and society.

Hudson currently lives in Greensboro.

The Sunset Series celebrates art and ideas by bringing world-class speakers and performers to Asheboro. It is sponsored by the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau, the City of Asheboro, and the Friends of the Randolph County Public Libraries.

Archdale

336-431-3811
10433 S. Main St.
Mon-Thur 9-8;
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-1

Asheboro

336-318-6800
201 Worth St.
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
Mon-Fri 9-12:30; 1:30-5:30
Sat 9-12:30

Franklinville

336-685-3100
111 Sumner Place
Mon-Thur 10-6; Sun 1-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Tuesday-Friday 10-6
Saturday 9-3

Ramseur

336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sat 9-1

Randleman

336-498-3141
142 W. Academy St.
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sat 9-1

Seagrove

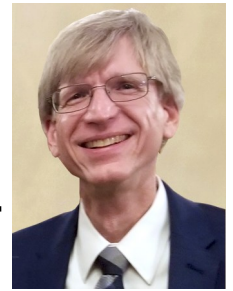
336-873-7521
530 Old Plank Rd.
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

Extension Service

336-318-6816 or 336-318-6817; Mon-Fri 9-5

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



Donna Toomes retires

♣ The retirement of beloved Randleman librarian Donna Toomes brought to mind the Shakespearean description “constant as the northern star.”

Donna’s last day at work will be August 31 after 24-year career with the library, 21 of those as library director. During her tenure, Donna truly has been constant as the northern star.

She has played a role in the advancement of the entire Randolph County Public Library system during her leadership of the Randleman library. She has the ability to see the big picture, but also to grasp the intricacies that make the big picture work.

Often have I called to bounce a problem off her, only to find that she had already thought it through and arrived at a solution. Her leadership helped us especially during the pandemic as we restructured library service during a precarious time.

But it’s at home — with the stunning growth and success of the Randleman library — where Donna’s impact has meant most to her community. From powerhouse learning opportunities for children to engaging activities for teens and adults, and a popular, highly accessible collection, the library under Donna’s leadership has become a hub of community life.

The library building offers tangible evidence of her contribution. Working with facility consultant Phil Barton, Donna served as project manager for the library’s relocation and renovation 2015. The collaboration saved the city over \$100,000 in furnishing costs and resulted in a library that after 11 years continues to meet community needs.



Donna Toomes at the Randleman library.

But Donna says the highlights of her career have been the quieter moments: seeing storytime “babies” grow up and bring babies of their own to storytime; having little ones in theaters and grocery stores run up and hug her because she’s “their librarian”; being told by a young adult that he always knew he was safe and loved at the library, and he knew Donna would always keep it that way...

And the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives — calling to check on a patron; picking out just the right book or piece of furniture for a memorial; patrons’ reactions after a book was ordered and placed on hold for them just because Donna knew they would like it; providing the library for wedding photos because it’s the couple’s “favorite place in the world” from when they were children; holding a patron’s hand and crying along with them at the loss of their loved one.

Donna — constant as the northern star — has set a high standard for library service and maintained it, leaving a legacy both for the Randleman Public Library and the Randolph County Public Libraries.



Author to scare up 'Carolina Haints'

♣ From the vampire beast of Bladenboro to the Hunter on Purgatory Mountain, author and podcaster Dan Sellers will scare up some "Carolina Haints" at the Archdale and Asheboro libraries in September.

Sellers will share North Carolina ghost stories and folk tales at Archdale, 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 22, and at Asheboro, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 24.

Sellers is founder of Carolina Haints, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting folklore storytelling through the Carolinas, where

people have gathered for generations to share porch stories, pass down traditions and remember what others have forgotten.

Carolina Haints brings those stories to life through research, storytelling, books, podcasts and public programs. Sellers hosted the Carolina Haints podcast for seven seasons, and is co-author of the book *Carolina Haints: Ghosts, Folklore, and Mysteries of the Old North State*.

A High Point resident, he also has penned *Haunted High Point* and the upcoming *Folk: A Collection of Curious Lore from the Carolinas*.

Johnson to lead Randleman library

♣ Regena Johnson will take over as Randleman library director effective September 1 following the retirement of Donna Toomes.

Johnson grew up in Randolph County

and is a lifelong patron of the Randleman library, where she has worked since January 2025. She has a background in business and accounting. Her hobbies include reading thrillers and historical fiction, crocheting, and spending time with her family.

Classes explore two sides of AI ...and other activities around the county

♣ Whether you want to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI), or run from it, the library has a class for you.

Digital Services Librarian Harris Mason will take on both sides of the issue, first with a general introduction in **Adult Learners: What Is AI?** for ages 16 and up at the Randleman library, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 15. Space is limited, so call 336-498-3141 to sign up.

Learn about a different side of AI with **How To Avoid AI Pushing Us Around**, 6 p.m. Thursday, September 24, at the Asheboro library. With AI becoming sophisticated and widespread, it can become a nuisance or even a danger. This class will offer tips on how to remove the

pull of AI from your daily life. No registration required.

Storm Readiness

Are you ready for the next severe storm? Learn how to protect your home, family and finances when rough weather strikes in "Storm Readiness" with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 1, at the Archdale library.

Beaded Bookmarks

Make stringed beaded bookmarks at the Asheboro library, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 17. Choose from colorful wooden, stone and glass beads to create bookmarks that are both decorative and functional.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads:

Katharine, the Wright Sister by Tracey Emerson Wood, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 29.

Archdale Book Break:

Theo of Golden by Levi Allen, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 15.

Franklinville: Snippets Book Club. Discuss articles from *The Sun* magazine, 12:30 p.m. Monday, September 21.

Liberty Afternoon Book Club: *Murder Takes a Vacation* by Laura Lippman, 1 p.m. Tuesday, September 22.

Liberty Evening Book Club: Choose a book featuring a "famous switch-up," 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 24.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you've read recently.

Archdale, Book Bites, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 8.

Ramseur Page Turners, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 1.

Randleman Readers Recommend, 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 4.

Randleman Teen Talk Book Club, 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 18.

Seagrove, Un-Book Club, 4 p.m. Friday, September 25.

Discover Revolutionary War ancestors

Do you have a Revolutionary War ancestor in your family tree? Learn how to find out in "Revolutionary War Ancestors: Discover Your Family History" with Randolph Room genealogy

specialist Kendra Lyons, 2 p.m. Thursday, September 10, at the Archdale library. Learn how to use library databases and genealogy resources to search for ancestors who served during the war.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE!

Understanding Medicare

Confused about Medicare? Join a representative from SHIP (Seniors Health Insurance Information Program) at the Archdale library, 2 p.m. Thursday, September 24 for "Understanding Medicare."

Learn about the different parts of Medicare, enrollment periods, coverage choices and available resources.

3D printing class for kids

A new 3D printing class for ages 7 and up is launching at 4 p.m. on the last Friday of each month at the Asheboro library. First up: Introduction to Tinkercard, September 25. Registration required; call 336-318-6804.

Paint autumn countryside

Paint a bucolic farm in the fall during "Paint with Us: Autumn Countryside," at the Seagrove and Franklinville libraries. Provide your own 8x10 canvas.

Seagrove: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, September 12; Franklinville: 2 p.m. Sunday, September 13.

Mini Mad Scientists

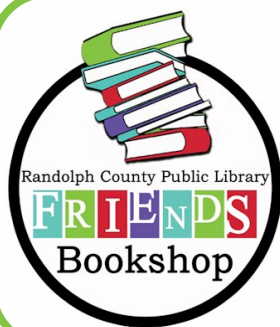
Curiosity leads the way for "Mini Mad Scientist," 4 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Asheboro library for kids ages 6-12. Experiment, explore and experience "Wow!" moments. First up: Lava Lamps, September 11. Call 336-318-6804 to sign up.

Randolph County Public Libraries

201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

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10 a.m. -2 p.m.

**Tuesdays,
Thursdays and
Saturdays**

**226 Sunset Ave.
Asheboro**

randolphfriends.org

Asheboro Storytime to feature Sheriff's Office K9 Red

♣ Red, a Randolph County Sheriff's Office K9, will be the guest of honor at a special all-ages storytime, 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 2, at the Asheboro library.

Red is the heroine of a children's book, *Red's Great Adventure*, created by the Sheriff's Office. That adventure began when a kennel latch failed during a storm and Red went missing. In the days that followed, the community rallied to search and share updates until Red was found safe.

The book, a fundraiser for the K9 unit, can be purchased at Sheriff's Office locations or from K9 handlers. Cost is \$10. The Sheriff's Office also has donated copies to each library and the Randolph Room.

